

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A safety shield apparatus comprising:

a needle having a distal portion and a proximal portion; and

a shield including at least one elongated part, the shield having a proximal end

5 mounted with the proximal portion of the needle and a distal end mounted with a planar contact surface, the shield being extensible between a retracted position and an extended position via fixed positioning of the planar contact surface relative to movement of the shield.

2. A safety shield apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a needle hub configured to support the proximal portion of the needle.

3. A safety shield apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the needle hub includes an appendage.

4. A safety shield apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the appendage has at least one opening to facilitate manipulation thereof.

5. A safety shield apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the appendage has at least
15 one wing for manipulation thereof.

6. A safety shield apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the shield includes at least one segment.

7. A safety shield apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the distal portion of the needle is angularly displaced approximately 90 degrees from the proximal portion.

8. A safety shield apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the planar contact surface includes a pad for engagement with a subject.

9. A safety shield apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the segment defines a channel.

10. A safety shield apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the segment defines a channel and the shield has a slider configured for slidable movement with the channel.

11. A safety shield apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the shield includes a latch engageable with the needle.

12. A safety shield apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the latch includes a latch arm for maintaining the shield in the extended position.

13. A safety shield apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the latch includes a plurality of surfaces configured to maintain the shield in the extended position.

14. A safety shield apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the latch includes an arcuate surface engageable with the needle.

15. A safety shield apparatus comprising:

a needle having a distal portion defining a longitudinal axis which is angularly displaced relative to a longitudinal axis defined by a proximal portion of the needle; and

a shield mounted with the needle and extensible, via a needle guide movably guiding the needle, between a retracted position and an extended position.

16. A safety shield apparatus according to claim 15, further comprising a needle hub configured to support the proximal portion of the needle.

17. A safety shield apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the needle hub includes an appendage.

18. A safety shield apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the appendage has at least one opening to facilitate manipulation thereof.

19. A safety shield apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the appendage has at least one wing for manipulation thereof.

20. A safety shield apparatus according to claim 15, wherein the shield includes at least one segment.

21. A safety shield apparatus according to claim 15, wherein the distal portion of the needle is angularly displaced approximately 90 degrees from the proximal portion.

22. A safety shield apparatus according to claim 15, wherein a distal end of the shield is attached to a planar contact surface.

23. A safety shield apparatus according to claim 22, wherein the planar contact surface includes a pad for engagement with a subject.

24. A safety shield apparatus according to claim 15, wherein a distal end of the shield is hingedly attached to a planar contact surface.

25. A safety shield apparatus according to claim 15, wherein a distal end of the shield is detachably attached to a planar contact surface.

26. A safety shield apparatus according to claim 24, wherein the planar contact surface includes a pad for engagement with a subject.

27. A safety shield apparatus according to claim 20, wherein the segment defines a channel.

5 28. A safety shield apparatus according to claim 20, wherein the segment defines a channel and the shield has a slider configured for slidable movement with the channel.

29. A safety shield apparatus according to claim 15, wherein the shield includes a latch engageable with the needle.

30. A safety shield apparatus according to claim 29, wherein the latch includes a latch arm for maintaining the shield in the extended position.

31. A safety shield apparatus according to claim 29, wherein the latch includes a plurality of surfaces configured to maintain the shield in the extended position.

32. A safety shield apparatus according to claim 29, wherein the latch includes an arcuate surface engageable with the needle.

15 33. A safety shield apparatus comprising:

a needle having a distal portion defining a longitudinal axis which is angularly displaced relative to a longitudinal axis defined by a proximal portion of the needle; and

a shield including at least one elongated part, the shield having a proximal end mounted with the proximal portion of the needle and a distal end mounted with a planar contact

surface, the shield being extensible between a retracted position and an extended position via fixed positioning of the planar contact surface relative to movement of the shield.

34. A safety shield apparatus according to claim 33, wherein the planar contact surface includes a plurality of openings.

5 35. A safety shield apparatus according to claim 33, wherein the planar contact surface includes an anchor part.

36. A safety shield apparatus according to claim 33, wherein the distal end of the shield is hingedly attached to the planar contact surface.

37. A safety shield apparatus according to claim 33, wherein the planar contact surface includes a pad for engagement with a subject.

38. A safety shield apparatus comprising:

a needle having a distal portion defining a longitudinal axis which is angularly displaced relative to a longitudinal axis defined by a proximal portion of the needle; and

a shield means, mounted with the needle and extensible between a retracted position and
15 an extended position, for preventing hazardous exposure to the distal portion of the needle.

39. A safety shield apparatus according to claim 38, further comprising a latch means engageable with the needle for maintaining the shield means in the extended position.